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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 10, 2004**

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**Honolulu City Council Bill 81 Offers Tax Credit  
to Homeowners Converting From Cesspool to Septic Tank System**  
*Bill 81 seeks to encourage the replacement of cesspools with septic tanks*

**HONOLULU, HI** – Honolulu City Council Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz introduced Bill 81, which establishes a one-time credit against property tax liability for residential property owners following the completion of construction, installation and commencement of a septic tank system for the treatment of domestic wastewater which replaces and permanently removes from service the owner's household cesspool.

Bill 81 follows the introduction of Resolution 04-319 – also by Council Chair Dela Cruz – which urges the City Department of Environmental Services to name potential sites for a wastewater treatment plant in the North Shore. The wastewater treatment plant – which would serve the entire North Shore area – is scheduled to be fully operational by 2010; however, until that time, Council Chair Dela Cruz introduced Bill 81 to help residents resolve the issue of failing cesspools.

"Bill 81 attempts to help people avoid the increasing costs of cesspool pumping," said Honolulu City Council Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz. "Failing cesspools are a financial burden to families and pose a significant threat to public health and the environment. We would like to provide an opportunity for residents to convert their domestic wastewater systems from cesspools to septic tanks by offering a one-time tax credit against property tax liability."

(more)

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The one-time tax credit would not exceed a percentage — yet to be determined — of the total cost of the septic tank and disposal system; provided that the tax credit shall apply only to the actual cost to the owner of the septic tank and disposal system and its installation. It shall not include the cost of consumer incentive premiums unrelated to the operation or installation of the septic tank and disposal system.

The credit shall be claimed against real property tax liability only for the tax year immediately following the calendar year in which the installation of the septic tank is completed and operational and the cesspool is permanently sealed. There shall be no carryover tax credit.

Eligibility of the owner for the tax credit would be determined by the Director of Budget and Fiscal Services based upon the review and verification that the owner's cesspool has been sealed and a septic tank installed and operational.

The owner shall file an application with the City Department of Budget and Fiscal Services on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> preceding the tax year for which the credit is claimed.

Bill 81 passed first reading at the Council meeting on November 10. Individuals are encouraged to follow the progress of Bill 81 and testify during committee meetings and public hearing to voice their opinions to members of the Honolulu City Council.

Honolulu City Council Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz represents Council District 2, which includes Mililani Mauka, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, Mokuleia, Waialua, Haleiwa, Waimea, Pupukea, Sunset Beach, Kahuku, Laie, Hauula, Punaluu, Kahana, Kaaawa, Kualoa, Waiahole, Kahaluu, Ahuimanu, and a portion of Heeia.

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